



## LEAMINGTON AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### Proposed Revision of the Association's Rules

At the 2009 AGM a number of suggestions were made for changes to the Association's rules. As a result the Executive Committee set up a sub committee to consider what changes were needed. The sub committee considered all the proposals made at the AGM and also looked at other areas where revisions might be helpful. It has produced a draft revision which is set out below.

Before it considers this draft the Executive Committee would welcome comments from members. Please email any comments to the General Secretary by 28 February. The Executive Committee will consider all the comments received.

Any changes will be submitted to the AGM in June and members will of course have the right to debate them then. However it is quite difficult to debate complex changes at a large meeting so if you do have comments we hope you will let us know now so we can resolve as many issues as possible beforehand.

The main changes proposed are:

- ? A revision of the rules on affiliation and membership in line with proposals by ETTA (see changes to rules 5 and 7)
- ? A new system for considering disciplinary complaints as suggested at the AGM. It is proposed that most complaints should be dealt with by clubs but that the Association would have reserve powers to deal with very serious complaints or where the club does not deal with the complaint properly (see changes to rule 18)
- ? A proposal that where one team refuses to play a match which the other team wants to play an additional power for the Executive Committee to direct that the match is played under whatever arrangements it directs. Normally an unplayed match is scored 0-0. However a circumstance arose last season where the relative positions between a team whose opponents were unwilling to play and a third team were affected. Both the teams affected were unhappy with this. (see rule 12e-III).
- ? Abolishing play offs where two teams tie and deciding their positions on the ratio of games won and lost as is normal in table tennis. This was also suggested at the AGM (see changes to rule 10e)
- ? The AGM asked the Executive Committee to consider changing the rule which prohibits a team fielding a player of a standard which is so high that it is wholly inappropriate for the division concerned. The sub committee was not able to find an entirely satisfactory way to change this rule. However it has proposed that it does not apply to the top two aside division and the top three aside division (see changes to rule 8f).
- ? A significant number of drafting changes. Some of these are consequential on the proposals above. Others do not change the way the league is run but explain the position more clearly.

If you would like a more detailed explanation of any of the proposed changes by all means email me and I will do my best to provide you with one.

# DRAFT

## LEAMINGTON AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION RULES

*Note: The additional text proposed is shown underlined ( thus ) and text proposed to be deleted is shown struck through ( ~~thus~~ ).*

### 1. Name

The Association shall be called "Leamington and District Table Tennis Association".

### 2. Objects

The objects of the Association shall be to foster and promote organised table tennis and to do anything that is incidental or conducive to this.

### 3. Government

a. The Association shall recognise the English Table Tennis Association Ltd ('ETTA') as the governing body for table tennis in England and affiliate to it.

b. The Association shall be governed by an Executive Committee comprising of the Officers, namely Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary, Press Officer, Representative Match Secretary, Tournament Secretary, Competitions Secretary, ~~Coaching Officer~~ Secretary, County Representative, Headquarters Officer, Webmaster, Welfare Officer and Social Secretary, and up to six other members elected by the Annual General Meeting.

c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy which may arise.

d. The President and Vice Presidents shall be invited annually to serve by the Executive Committee and all other Officers of the Association and an Auditor shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

e. The Executive Committee shall meet regularly during the administrative year. An extraordinary meeting shall be held if called for by the Chairman or five members of the Executive Committee. The General Secretary shall give each member of the Executive Committee reasonable notice of its meetings.

f. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be five.

g. The Executive Committee shall appoint such sub committees as it deems necessary and delegate to them and to officers such of its powers as it thinks fit.

### 4. General Meetings

a. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in June of each year.

b. The Executive Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time. It shall also do so within 42 days of a request by 25 members in writing specifying the business to be discussed including any proposed alterations to the rules or other propositions.

c. Subject to these rules the Executive Committee shall decide the date, time, ~~and~~ place and agenda of a General Meeting.

d. All members of the Association are welcome and shall have power to vote.

e. At least 21 days notice of the meeting shall be given to each member through their Club Secretary together with the agenda. ~~and~~ The agenda shall include any proposed alterations to the rules or other propositions.

f. Any proposed alteration of the rules or other ~~motion~~ proposition submitted in writing shall be included in the agenda if received by the General Secretary by 30 April for the Annual General Meeting or with the request under rule 4b for an Extraordinary General Meeting.

g. A proposition not on the agenda may be discussed at a General Meeting but no decision may be taken on it.

- h. The administrative year shall be the period from the day after the Annual General Meeting to the day of the next Annual General Meeting.
- i. The financial year shall be the period from 1 June to the following 31 May.
- j. An audited statement of accounts shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

### **5. Affiliation of Clubs**

- a. A table tennis club or the table tennis section of a club shall be eligible to affiliate to the Association.
- b. The Executive Committee may refuse to affiliate a club if it considers this to be in the best interests of the Association.
- c. An affiliated club shall keep the General Secretary informed as to the name and contact details of its Club Secretary. The Club Secretary shall be responsible for liaison with the Association and with other affiliated clubs on administrative matters.

### **6. Registration of League Teams**

- a. Each club wishing to enter teams in the league shall submit registration forms for them by 15 July or such other date as the Executive Committee shall specify, the closing date printed in the previous edition of the handbook. The Executive Committee shall have discretion to accept late entries.
- b. The annual registration fee for senior teams shall be £3.75 for the two-aside competition and £5 for the three-aside competition. The Executive Committee may allow a discount to teams which register on line. The fees for a junior team shall be half those for a senior team. The fees for a team only entering the league for a Spring competition shall be half those otherwise payable.
- c. Any ETTA and Warwickshire TTA fees due in respect of teams or their players must be paid in addition to the above.
- d. The Executive Committee may refuse to register or disqualify a team if it considers this to be in the best interests of the Association.
- e. If a team is disqualified or resigns from the League without completing its fixtures its playing record shall be disregarded
- f. A team may not play a league match until it has paid all its registration fees and any other sum due to the Association.
- g. A team must state its home venue on its registration forms. Venues must be acceptable to the Executive Committee and shall be situated within a 12 mile radius of the Town Hall, Leamington Spa unless the Executive Committee expressly agrees otherwise.
- h. A team must state the name and contact details of its team secretary on its registration forms. The team secretary, who shall be responsible for liaising with the Association and with other teams on administrative matters, must be at least 16 years old before 1 September but need not be a player.

### **7. Membership**

- a. The Association welcomes members regardless of race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation or disability.
- b. Members of an affiliated club may become members of the Association if they are or become members of ETTA.
- c. There shall be two classes of member:-
  - (I) Playing members who are playing members of ETTA and are eligible to play competitive table tennis; and
  - (II) Associate members who are associate members of ETTA and do not play competitive table tennis.
- d. Members shall remain in membership for as long as they meet the qualifications for membership and pay any membership and other fees prescribed for their class of membership, or until they resign or are expelled for misconduct in accordance with the rules.

e. Only a member may be President, Officer, Executive Committee Member, Trustee or Auditor.

f. No associate membership fee shall be due from an associate member who is President, Vice President, Life Member, Trustee or Auditor and the Association will also reimburse them the cost of any ETTA associate membership fee they pay.

## **8. Membership and Registration of players**

~~The members of the Association shall be:-~~

- ~~—— (I) all registered players~~
- ~~—— (II) Life Members elected by the Executive Committee in recognition of service to the Association~~
- ~~—— (III) any other person the Executive Committee admits to membership on such terms as it decides.~~

a. Players individual registration fees shall be £3.50 for seniors and £2.50 for juniors. The fee is additional to team registration fees and shall be inclusive of one copy of the Association Handbook.

b. Each team in the two-aside competition shall register at least three playing members as players. Each team in the three-aside competition shall register at least four playing members as players. Teams may register one less player if a registered player is eligible and available to act as a reserve.

c. The Executive Committee may refuse to register a player either for a particular team or at all if it considers such registration would be contrary to the best interests of the Association.

d. No player may take part in a league match until the League Secretary has accepted that player's registration. Should an unregistered or ineligible player take part in a league match, that player's individual matches shall be awarded to the opposing team.

e. Players may register for teams in any or all of the Association's competitions for which they are eligible and shall only be liable for a single player registration fee.

f. A team (other than a team in the top 2 aside division or the top 3 aside division or a club's first team) shall not field players of a standard so high that it is wholly inappropriate for the division concerned. If the Executive Committee uphold a complaint under this rule it shall award that player's individual matches to the opposing team.

## **9. Reserves and Transfer of Players**

a. A player may only play for one team in the two-aside competition and one team in the three-aside competition except either as a reserve or if the Executive Committee approves a permanent transfer to another team.

b. A player may play as a reserve:-

- (I) only for a team from the same club except that juniors with the permission of their own club may play as a reserve for a team from another club; and
- (II) only in a higher division; and
- (III) only for one team in any division; and
- (IV) only up to four times in any division (or, where separate Autumn and Spring competitions are played, up to twice in each competition).

c. The closing date for the transfer of players shall be 31 December or, where separate Autumn and Spring competitions are played, half way through the competition concerned.

d. A transferred player may not play against a particular team more times than would have been possible had that player represented a single team throughout the competition.

## **10. The League Competition**

a. All league matches and other competitions shall be played in accordance with the ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis. In addition the Executive Committee shall decide which ITTF Regulations for International Competitions apply to league matches and other competitions and print them in the handbook.

- b. League matches shall commence in September on a date decided by the Executive Committee.
- c. There shall be a two-aside competition and a three-aside competition. The number of divisions in each competition, the number of teams in each division, the number of times teams shall play each other in each division in each competition and the number of competitions each division shall hold in the administrative year shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- d. The top two teams in each division shall be promoted to the next higher division and the bottom two teams relegated to the next lower division. The Executive Committee may depart from this rule in exceptional circumstances if it considers it to be in the best interests of the Association.
- e. ~~In the event of two teams tying with equal league points their relative positions shall be determined by a deciding match which shall be played on a date and at a venue chosen by the Executive Committee. The deciding match shall be the best of the five individual singles and doubles matches in the two-aside competition but the best of the nine individual singles matches only in the three-aside competition.~~ In the event of ~~more than two~~ teams tying with equal league points their relative positions shall be determined by the ratio of games won to games lost.

### **11. League Match Arrangements**

- a. All teams must state a weekday night (Monday to Friday) as their home night on their registration forms. Except where these rules provide otherwise league matches shall be played on the home night of the home team in the week specified in the fixture chart in the handbook.
- b. In the two-aside competition teams shall consist of two singles players and one doubles pair. In the three-aside competition teams shall consist of three singles players and one doubles pair.
- c. The doubles pair may be, but need not be, chosen from the singles players.
- d. ~~Each~~ A league match shall consist of each singles player playing an individual match against each of the opposing team's singles players and the doubles pair playing an individual match against the opposing team's doubles pair.
- e. The order of play shall be decided by the team captains who shall alternate in nominating their players first before the commencement of each individual match. The team to nominate first in the first individual match shall be determined by the toss of a coin. The winner of the toss shall choose to nominate first or to require the opposing captain to nominate first in the first individual match.
- f. One league point shall be awarded to the winning team for each individual match of a league match. Except where the rules expressly provide otherwise league points shall only be awarded for individual matches actually played.
- g. League matches shall start not later than 7.15pm. Players arriving after 7.30pm shall not be permitted knock up with their team.
- h. Where there is no sign of a team or explanation as to its absence by 8pm the opposing team is entitled to leave and report the position to the League Secretary.
- i. Except by prior agreement of the opposing team a player not present by 8pm may not take part in the match.
- j. If a team is only partially represented the resulting unplayed individual matches shall be awarded to its opponents. No league point shall be awarded for an individual match where neither side is represented.
- k. All the individual matches of a league match shall be played on the same table unless the teams agree otherwise.

### **12. Postponed and Unplayed League Matches**

- a. Postponement of a league match will be allowed only if:

- (I) The opposing team agrees; and
- (II) The postponing team immediately informs the League Secretary.
- ~~b. If a dispute arises in relation to a postponement the league match shall be deemed to be unplayed.~~
- b. A penalty of two league points may be imposed if the above is not strictly adhered to.
- c. League matches may be brought forward from the date specified in the fixture ~~list~~ chart by mutual consent of the teams concerned.
- d. Postponed league matches ~~not~~ shall be played by 30 April (or in the case of an Autumn competition by ~~the 31 December~~ or such other date as is specified by the Executive Committee). ~~shall be deemed unplayed.~~
- e. No league points shall normally be awarded for an unplayed league match. Where exceptionally a team satisfies the Executive Committee that it has made repeated efforts to play and is in no way responsible for the league match being unplayed the Executive Committee shall either:
  - (I) award that team alone the most league points it could reasonably have expected to have won had the league match been played; or
  - (II) instruct that the match takes place under whatever arrangements it directs. A team which does not comply with the arrangements shall be deemed to have resigned from the competition and its playing record disregarded in accordance with rule 6e.
- f. The Executive Committee shall impose a penalty on a team if its opponents substantiate a complaint that they were caused a wasted journey because the team failed to field any players for a match without giving, and ensuring its opponents received, adequate prior warning. The penalty shall be five points for a three aside match or three points for a two aside match and shall be in addition to and separate from any decision taken about the resulting un-played match.
- g. Every league match shall be played to completion. If a league match is interrupted for reasons beyond the control of the teams (for example lighting failure) they shall make arrangements for its continuation to completion as soon as possible thereafter.

### **13. Result Cards**

- a. The home team shall send one result card to reach the Executive Committee's nominee within ten days of a league match being played and in any case not later than the last day for playing postponed matches.
- b. No penalty shall be imposed on a team for its first infringement of this rule. A penalty of one league point shall be imposed for each subsequent infringement in the same competition.
- c. Each team shall retain a record of its results in case a result card is lost.

### **14. Leamington Closed Championships and Other Competitions**

- a. The Leamington Closed Championships shall be held annually on or after 1 January in the Administrative Year concerned.
- b. Unless the regulations for a particular event permit otherwise entries will be restricted to registered players who have either played three matches by 31 December or who are not registered with any other Association.
- c. Registered players not meeting these requirements may be considered for entry by the Executive Committee in exceptional circumstances.
- d. The Association may organise other competitions.
- e. Regulations and control of all competitions shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee whose decisions shall be final.

### **15. Trophies**

- a. All perpetual trophies are the property of the Association. Clubs and players holding perpetual trophies are responsible for their safe custody and cleanliness and must return

them to the Association in good clean condition by the date of the Leamington Closed Championships.

b. The Association shall provide the winners and runners up of each division with three personal trophies in the two-aside competition and four personal trophies in the three-aside competition.

### **16. Representative Matches**

a. The Association's colours shall be royal blue.

b. An Association badge shall be awarded to a player after five appearances in representative team matches excluding friendly matches.

c. All Clubs shall inform the Representative Match Secretary by 15 July or such other date as the Executive Committee decides ~~the date printed in the handbook~~ if any of their players wish to play in representative matches or in events to which the Association is entitled to nominate

### **17. Ball**

The ball shall be a 3 star ball currently approved by the ITTF and bearing the ITTF logo. The home team shall provide the balls for a league match.

### **18. Conduct**

~~Should a club, team or member either be in breach of these rules or bring the sport or the Association into disrepute they may be asked to appear before the Executive Committee and be liable to expulsion or such other sanction as the Executive Committee decides. If this happens all club secretaries will be notified of the Executive Committee's decision.~~

a. Members shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Association's rules and so as not to bring the sport or the Association into disrepute. Clubs shall take all reasonable steps to ensure their members comply with this rule.

b. A member wishing to make a complaint about the conduct of a nother member shall send it in writing (by letter or email) to the two club secretaries concerned with a copy to the General Secretary of the Association. The club of the member about whom the complaint is made shall investigate it, take appropriate disciplinary action if necessary and keep the complainant's club secretary and the General Secretary of the Association informed of the position.

c. The Executive Committee may call in and deal with any complaint if it considers it is not appropriate to be dealt with at club level or that it has not been suitably dealt with by the club concerned. In this event the Executive Committee shall ask the complainant and the member complained about to appear before it and if it finds that there has been a breach of the rules or that the sport or the Association has been brought into disrepute it may expel those it considers responsible or impose such other sanction as it thinks fit.

d. The Executive Committee shall publish in the handbook a Code of Conduct which shall be taken into account by clubs and the Executive Committee when considering any complaint.

e. Members shall ensure that anyone accompanying them at matches or events who is not a member is aware of and complies with the Code of Conduct.

### **19. League Averages**

A trophy shall be awarded to the player with the highest percentage of wins in individual singles matches in each division in each competition. Individual matches not actually played (for example because of the absence of an opponent) shall be ignored. In the event of a tie it shall be resolved in favour of the player with the greater number of wins in individual singles matches. If the number of wins in individual singles matches is also equal the prize shall be shared. To qualify for the trophy a player must take part in not less than 65% of the total number of individual singles matches possible.

## **20. Alterations to the handbook**

Clubs and teams shall inform the League Secretary and the secretaries of all other relevant teams in writing (by letter or email) of any changes to the information about themselves in the handbook.

## **21. Trustees.**

The property of the Association shall be vested in four Trustees who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and the property of the Association shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Association property. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Executive Committee. Where by reason of such death, resignation or removal it is necessary that a new Trustee or Trustees be appointed the Executive Committee shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the President is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Association within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Executive Committee.

## **22. General**

a. In the event of any question not provided for in the rules such question shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.

b. The Executive Committee may supplement these rules with regulations but if any conflict arises between the rules and such regulations the rules shall prevail. Regulations shall be published in the handbook.

## **23. Dissolution**

The Association may only be dissolved by a motion carried by a three quarters majority at a General Meeting, ~~the proposition such motion~~ having been included on the agenda given to members through their club secretaries at least 21 days before the meeting under rule 4e. On dissolution all assets of the Association shall become the property of the English Table Tennis Association Ltd.